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Hostels for Harijans.

* 1149 Q.—SRI S. VEMIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Boys' and Girls' Hostels for Harijans for which recognition has been accorded this year 1952–53; and

(b) whether the managers whose hostels have been recognized are Harijans by caste?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) Recognition was accorded during 1952–53 for 39 boys' hostels, 8 girls' hostels and 2 mixed hostels.

" (b) Twenty-one hostels are managed by Harijans, 26 by non-Harijans and 2 by District Boards."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Have the Government issued any instructions that the strength of the hostels should not be increased beyond 25 per cent? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" A circular has been issued that without prior permission, the strength of the hostels should not be increased."

9–10 a.m. SRI M. NARAYANASAMI :—" Sir, in view of the large number of complaints received by the Government with regard to the managements of these hostels, have the Government any new policy of running these hostels? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, every complaint is looked into and as far as possible rectified immediately. The Government have also started hostels of their own in certain centres."

SRI S. VEMIAH :—" Sir, may I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that most of the hostels which are in existence for over three years have not been recognised in spite of repeated representations? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, as many hostels as possible are being recognised every year."

SRI K. VENKAIAH :—" Sir, may I know whether the complaints given by the students of their living in these hostels are considered by the Government and are steps taken to rectify the mistakes complained of? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir."

'AN HON. **MEMBER** :—" మంత్రిగారు ఒంగోలు వచ్చినప్పుడు మాజీ పార్లమెంటు సభ్యుడు శ్రీ కేశవ రావుగారు నడుపుతున్న హాస్టళ్లను గురించి వారికి కొన్ని మెమోరాండంలు, పిటిషన్లు ఇచ్చాము. వాటినిగురించి ఏమి చర్య తీసుకున్నారో చెప్పగలరా ? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I have caused an enquiry to be made and necessary action would be taken. The hon. Member may put a separate question, if necessary."

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SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that nobody comes forward to start a Harijan hostel at Tindivanam, will the Government make an advance subsidy for starting a hostel in that place? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" That cannot be done, Sir."

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" Sir, is it not a fact that the Director of Harijan Welfare suggested to the Government to open a Government Harijan hostel at Palayamkottai in Tirunelveli district and why has it not been opened? May I know whether it is to be opened? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI B. K. NALLASWAMI :—" Sir, Government have ordered that the private-managed hostel at Coimbatore for college boys should be closed down and that no grant would be given to it. There was a proposal that the Government should start a Harijan hostel of their own. I want to know whether the Government have started a hostel at Coimbatore for Harijan-college boys? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, about the closing down of the particular hostel, etc., I require notice."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" In his reply, the Hon. Minister mentioned about the existence of ' mixed ' hostels. Are there different blocks for girls and boys and if so, how many boys and how many girls are studying there? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, ' mixed ' was used in the sense of Harijans and other classes."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the list of hostels furnished by the Government would go to show that the hostel facilities for Harijans are very unevenly spread over the State. Will the Government take this fact into consideration in giving further sanctions and allow priority to places where there are very little facilities? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, instructions were issued even in the beginning of last year that priority should be given to areas and districts where there were not adequate number of hostels."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, may I know the rate of subsidy given by the Government per boarder in these hostels and may I also know whether the relief given is only to Harijan students or is it another method of providing relief to political sufferers? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, the boarding grant is Rs. 15 per head in these hostels. As for the other question, I may say it is intended for Harijan boys only and for nobody else."

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SRI G. BAPANAYYA :—" హరిజన హాస్టల్సు మేనేజర్లు హాస్టళ్ళను సరిగా నడుపుట లేదని అనేక కంప్లైంటులు మీ దగ్గరకు వచ్చాయి. వాటిని గురించి మీరు విచారించారా? ఈ హాస్టళ్లు ప్రస్తుతం ఏవిధంగా నిర్వహింపబడుతున్నాయో తెలుసుకునేందుకై ఒక Enquiry Committee ని వేసి ఆ విషయం పరిశీలన చేయిస్తారా? ఈ హాస్టళ్లను ఇకముందు ప్రభుత్వంవారే తీసుకొనునట్లు చేస్తారా? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" There is no need for any enquiry committee. Every complaint was looked into and the general state was also studied. But on account of the financial stringency, Government are not in a position to start more hostels this year."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that most of the managements do not bring to account private contributions from individuals and bodies? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" We can only look into the available accounts. Where there is any mistake, it is immediately attended to."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, do Government think that the amount of Rs. 15 per head is sufficient for maintaining a school-boy at that age and will Government consider increasing that amount? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" This has nothing to do with the pupils' tuition fees. It is only for boarding and maintenance. The business is fairly well managed in spite of so many difficulties. Our country is poor, our people are poor. Make any arrangement and there are some people who want to make a business out of it and there is in fact great protest from the managers about the subsidy rates. Every little group of people offer themselves for exploiting. To-day, we are trying to do our best. There is some mismanagement here and there but we recognise it will be worse if we appoint an Enquiry Committee. We will have to manage things as best we can remembering that our people are poor and many people will try to make something out of managing even Harijan hostels. Still we are coping with the difficulties."

SRI S. VEMIAH :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister was pleased to tell us that there are two hostels maintained by the district boards. May I know what those districts are? Will Government consider the desirability of extending the establishment of these hostels by other district boards? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I think it is in Kurnool that these district board hostels are. The suggestion is always there and it is for the District Boards to start hostels."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" Sir, in view of the importance of the subject, I request that a half-hour debate may be allowed."

MR. SPEAKER :—" To-morrow, if there is time."